

You can help: Report sexual exploitation of children.

Report suspicious activity to ICE by telephone or email:

1-866-DHS-2ICE or **Operation.Predator@dhs.gov**

Report suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children to NCMEC:

1-800-843-5678 or **www.cybertipline.com**



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U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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www.ice.gov



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Each year, millions of children fall prey to sexual predators. Experts estimate that one-in-five girls and one-in-ten boys in the United States are sexually exploited before they reach adulthood. These young victims are left with permanent psychological, physical, and emotional scars. That tragedy is compounded by the fact that child prostitution, human trafficking, child pornography, and international sex tourism now generate billions of dollars a year worldwide.

Seeking to reverse this trend and protect children worldwide, the Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) developed Operation Predator, an initiative to identify, investigate, and arrest child predators. Officially launched by Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge in July 2003, Operation Predator draws on ICE's unique investigative and enforcement authorities to safeguard children from pedophiles, human traffickers, international sex tourists and other predatory criminals.

Coordinated nationally and internationally through ICE's headquarters, Operation Predator brings together an array of ICE disciplines and resources to target these child sexual abusers. As part of the effort:

- ICE has established a single web portal to access all publicly available state Megan's Law databases.
- ICE has created a National Child Victim Identification System in partnership with other agencies.
- ICE agents stationed internationally are working with foreign governments and their foreign law enforcement counterparts to enhance coordination and cooperation on crimes that cross borders.
- ICE is working with INTERPOL to enhance foreign government intelligence on criminal child predators.

Operation Name:	Operation Predator
Goal:	Protect children from predators.
Initiated:	July 9, 2003
Scope:	International
Results:	More than 6,800 sexual predators arrested.
Additional info:	www.ice.gov

Operation Predator Strategy

ICE has arrested more than 6,800 child predators nationwide as part of Operation Predator. The targets include non-citizen child sex offenders whose crimes render them deportable from the United States, as well as U.S. citizens

and residents suspected of sex crimes against children. ICE has arrested individuals who have committed a wide range of acts of child sex exploitation. For example, consider the recent headlines shown.



Protecting Children Worldwide

Several U.S. laws safeguard youth from sexual predators, including the Mann Act, the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Act of 1994, and the Protect Act of 2003. For example, federal law bars U.S. residents from engaging in sexual or pornographic activities anywhere in the world with a child under 18. ICE is working with law enforcement agencies and advocacy groups around the globe to investigate crimes of this nature. Those convicted in the U.S. face significant penalties:

- Possession, manufacture, distribution of child pornography: maximum 30 years in prison.
- Child sex tourist, child sex tour operator, or participant in these crimes: maximum 30 years in prison.
- Sex trafficking of children for prostitution: maximum life sentence.

In addition, lawful immigrants and illegal aliens who are convicted of crimes in United States are subject to removal proceedings, which may ultimately lead to their removal from the United States.

Operation Predator Partners

As part of its international awareness campaign to alert families to the potential dangers of child predators, ICE works closely with a number of agencies and organizations to educate the public. Such cooperation is crucial to the success of this initiative, since child predator investigations often cross jurisdictional boundaries and require specialized assistance to assist victims.